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Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 NEA-10 ISO-00 EURE-00 IO-10 SSO-00

NSCE-00 INRE-00 USIE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

ARA-06 SAM-01 /086 W
---------- 122279
O R 061522Z JAN 76
FM AMEMBASSY LONDON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7833
INFO AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA
AMEMBASSY ACCRA
AMEMBASSY NAIROBI
AMEMBASSY LAGOS
AMEMBASSY LOURENCO MARQUES
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI
AMEMBASSY TUNIS
AMEMBASSY RABAT
AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA
AMEMBASSY YAOUNDE
AMEMBASSY BANJUL
AMEMBASSY DAKAR
AMEMBASSY KINSHASA
AMEMBASSY FREETOWN
AMEMBASSY MBABANE
AMEMBASSY MASERU
AMEMBASSY GABORONE
AMEMBASSY BLANTYRE
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY LISBON
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 LONDON 00150

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E.O. 11652: XGDS-1
TAGS: PFOR, UK, AO
SUBJECT: BRITISH DEMARCHE ON ANGOLA

SUMMARY: BRITISH HAVE RECEIVED FAVORABLE RESPONSES TO APPROXIMATELY HALF THEIR DEMARCHES ON ANGOLA IN EIGHTEEN AFRICAN CPITALS, BUT MOST OF THESE NATIONS DO NOT EXPECT THE BRITISH VIEW WILL PREVAIL AT THE FORTHCOMING OAU SUMMIT. THE FRENCH HAVE PROVED A STUMBLING BLOCK TO THE SUCCESSFUL COMPLETION OF AN EC-NINE DECLARATION ON ANGOLA. END SUMMARY.

1. MARTIN REID, HEAD OF FCO CENTRAL AND SOUTHERN AFRICA DEPARTMENT, BRIEFED EMBASSY OFFICER JANUARY 5 ON STATUS OF HMG DEMARCHES IN SELECTED AFRICAN CAPITALS ON THE SUBJECT OF ANGOLA. AMBASSADORS OR HIGH COMMISSIONERS IN THE FOLLOWING COUNTRIES HAVE BEEN INSTRUCTED TO CALL AT THE FOREIGN MINISTER LEVEL TO EXPRESS THE BRITISH VIEW: MALAWI, UGANDA, BOTSWANA, LESOTHO, SWAZILAND, SIERRA LEONE, GAMBIA, CAMEROON, ETHIOPIA, MOROCCO, TUNISIA, LIBYA, EGYPT, ZAMBIA, NIGERIA, KENYA, GHANA AND TANZANIA.

2. INSTRUCTIONS TO EMBASSIES AND HIGH COMMISSIONS INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING POINTS:

A) REPRESENTATIVES SHOULD RECALL BRITAIN'S CONSISTENT POLICY OF RECOGNIZING NEITHER GOVERNMENT IN THE ANGOLAN CONFLICT; BRITAIN ENDORSES THE POSITION OF THE OAU CONCILIATORY COMMISSION CALLING FOR A UNIFIED ANGOLAN GOVERNMENT;

B) WORLD OPINION OVERWHELMINGLY FAVORS A CEASE-FIRE TO STOP THE FIGHTING IN WHICH ANGOLANS HAVE ALREADY SUFFERED ENOUGH; BRITAIN FURTHERMORE URGES THE WITHDRAWAL OF ALL FOREIGN FORCES FROM ANGOLAN TERRITORY; FOREIGN MINISTER CALLAGHAN HAS FORCEFULLY PUT THESE VIEWS TO THE PEPRESENTATIVES OF THE SOVIET UNION, SOUTH AFRICA, AND CUBA;

C) THE UK UNDERSTANDS THAT SOUTH AFRICA IS CONSIDERING JUST SUCH A WITHDRAWAL;

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D) ANGOLANS SHOULD BE LEFT TO RESOLVE THEIR OWN DIFFERENCES; THE OAU HAS AN ESPECIALLY SIGNIFICANT ROLE TO PLAY IN DEVELOPING A POLITICAL SOLUTION TO THE PROBLEMS WHICH NOW DIVIDE ANGOLA;

E) IN SUM, BRITAIN STRONGLY BELIEVES THAT ANGOLANS

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SHOULD BE PERMITTED TO DETERMINE FREELY THEIR OWN FUTURE WITHIN AN AFRICAN CONTEXT AND WITHOUT OUTSIDE INTERFERENCE; BRITAIN HOPES THIS VIEW IS SHARED.

F) AT THEIR OWN DISCRETION, UK REPRESENTATIVES COULD STRESS BELIEF THAT OAU FACES BOTH A CHALLENGE AND OPPORTUNITY IN ATTEMPTING TO RESOLVE THE ANGOLAN CONFLICT; BRITAIN HOPES THE OAU SUMMIT WILL NOT BE DIVERTED BY FOCUSING ON ONLY CERTAIN ASPECTS OF THE CONTROVERSY, AND THAT DELIBERATIONS AT THE SUMMIT WILL BE CHARACTERIZED BY EVEN-HANDEDNESS.

3. REID SAID THE FCO HAS SO FAR RECEIVED REPORTS ON ABOUT HALF THESE DEMARCHES. EACH RESPONSE HAS BEEN SYMPATHETIC AND CONSTRUCTIVE WITH THE EXCEPTION OF TANZANIA WHERE FOREIGN MINISTER KADUMA LAUNCHED INTO A VITUPERATIVE AND CONDEMNATORY TIRADE (HMG IS CONSIDERING A SECOND DEMARCHE IN DAR ES SALAAM DIRECTLY TO NYERERE). THE BRITISH EFFORT HAS BEEN WELL RECEIVED, REID SAID, BUT WHILE MOST GOVERNMENTS SHARED THE VIEWS EXPRESSED IN THE DEMARCHE, FEW BELIEVED THAT VIEW WOULD PREVAIL. MOST ECHOED THE NIGERIAN LINE THAT NOTHING CONSTRUCTIVE COULD BE ACHIEVED IN RESOLVING THE DISPUTE UNTIL SOUTH AFRICA IS ELIMINATED FROM THE EQUATION.

4. QUERIED ABOUT THE STATUS AND TIMING OF THE EC-NINE DECLARATION OL ANGOLA, REID SAID A CAREFULLY WORDED DRAFT HAD WON THE APPROVAL OF EIGHT OF THE NINE GOVERNMENTS. THE DRAFT EMPHASIZES THE HUMAN SUFFERING AND DESTRUCTION IN ANGOLA, THE NEED FOR AN IMMEDIATE CEASE-FIRE AND THE WITHDRAWAL OF FOREIGN FORCES, THE DESIRABILITY OF A POLITICAL SOLUTION IN WHICH ALL ANGOLANS DETERMINE THEIR FUTURE FREELY, AND THE VITAL ROLE OF THE OAU. FRENCH MISGIVINGS HAVE SO FAR PREVENTED UNANIMOUS APPROVAL OF THE DRAFT AND, REID SAID CONFIDENTIALLY, SUGGESTED CHANGES BY THE FRENCH WILL LIKELY ENFEEBLE THE TEXT.

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04 MAY 2006

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TAGS: PFOR, UK, AO, XA
To: STATE
Type: TE
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